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Menlo Park, CA 94025  
March 1, 2000

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)  
Food and Drug Administration  
5630 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1061  
Rockville, MD 20852

2758 '00 MAR -6 A9:55

Re: Docket No. 99D-5347

**The precautionary measure to reduce the possible risk of transmission of zoonoses by blood and blood products from xenotransplantation products recipients and their close contacts.**

I urge you to reconsider the proposed measure as well as xenotransplantation itself.


The measure appears to be a very weak step in attempting to curb the transmission of diseases from animals to humans. The varied transmission pattern of diseases such as mad cow disease as well as the extended latency periods of many diseases are only a few of the problems that make them difficult to control.

It seems clear that the transmission of viruses to humans from animals through xenotransplantation cannot be prevented through "deferring" blood donations from xenotransplantation recipients, their close contacts, and relevant hospital and laboratory personnel."

Xenotransplantation has already occurred without the existence of a national or international registry of the patients and their close contacts. This lack of monitoring jeopardizes the U.S. blood supply. Unfortunately, the already inadequate supply of blood donors is likely to decrease as the list of problems resulting from xenotransplants grows and the safety of blood becomes even more difficult to guarantee.

I urge you seriously to consider a moratorium on the current dangerous experiment with xenotransplantation.

Sincerely,



Kimberly Birn

99D-5347

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